

**From:** [Greg Powell](#)  
**To:** [Greg Fife](#)  
**Subject:** Re: Bayou Corne  
**Date:** 10/25/2012 08:37 AM

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Hi Greg:

Did you get my voice mail message? From what I gather the USCG won't issue a FPN? No Superfund issues, so our getting funding to pay for the guy at Sandia NL won't be possible. We can do internal reviews though. I will be glad to help in any way I can.

thanks

Greg Powell  
USEPA-Environmental Response Team  
Cincinnati, Ohio  
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▼ Greg Fife---10/15/2012 01:43:32 PM---Ok. We'll be here waiting. It is getting weirder. Greg Fife

From: Greg Fife/R6/USEPA/US  
To: Greg Powell/CI/USEPA/US@EPA  
Date: 10/15/2012 01:43 PM  
Subject: Re: Bayou Corne

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Ok. We'll be here waiting. It is getting weirder.

Greg Fife  
Sent using BlackBerry

▼ Greg Powell---10/15/2012 11:39 AM MDT---Greg: Have not forgotten you. Running some ideas past Dave and Harry. This one is like you said.

From:	Greg Powell
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Cc:	
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9544222

Greg Powell  
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▼ Greg Fife---10/09/2012 04:53:23 PM---Thanks for listening to this. Its getting to be a huge nightmare and EPA is getting sucked in, thro

From: Greg Fife/R6/USEPA/US  
To: Greg Powell/C1/USEPA/US@EPA  
Date: 10/09/2012 04:53 PM  
Subject: Bayou Corne

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Thanks for listening to this. Its getting to be a huge nightmare and EPA is getting sucked in, thrown in, and even volunteering.

Bayou Corne is a sink hole in Assumption Parish, LA, ~35 south of Baton Rouge and West of New Orleans. There are plenty of stories written about it and most of what we know is best described by those media stories, so google for more.

It did start back in May, with bubbles from the ground. They all suspected pipelines that are numerous in the area. Then a slurry pit appeared, then that slurry pit turned out to be a sinkhole.

The area is on top of the Napoleonville salt dome, an area of about 3 or 4 square miles of salt. Near the sinkhole are numerous caverns mined into the dome. Some have LPG, butane, etc. Others are salt mining adventures. The one particular cavern is a salt cavern.

The company, Texas Brine has been drilling wells, and other things per the orders of the State Police.

It would appear that the Texas Brine cavern is the culprit but it may not be.

Bubbles of natural gas keep popping up all over, some miles away.

Residents are evacuated and have been since spring.

LDEQ, LDNR, LA State Police, Assumption Parish Homeland Security, LSU, U of Memphis, USGS, Governor's Office, and more are involved. A portion of that grouping is running the response, another bunch is the science workgroup,

EPA's Ada lab was but they don't have enough resources to do this and the Frac'ing thing, and the Red River Fish Kill.

Residents and Parish are demanding answers. And nobody really knows.

The biggest question is about the ROOT CAUSE. Why is it happening.

The next questions are mostly about safety and getting back in the house.

There was identified an expert at Sandia National Lab. Of course, USGS has no money for that expert. So, they are looking at us now, and some with higher pay grades want it to happen.

Do you have expertise in this matter? Do you know who would? Could ERT facilitate access to this expert in Sandia?

That's a little background. Its a weird one.